

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 are pending in this application of which claims 1, 11 and 21 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the abstract but did not specify the reason. Applicants find nothing wrong with the current Abstract, and therefore believe the line reciting the objection to be a typographical error.

Next, the Examiner indicated that there is no "Summary of the Invention" of the specification and that this would require a correction. 37 CFR 1.77(b) states that a specification "should" have a "Brief Summary of the Invention" section, but 37 CFR 1.77(b) does not require the "Brief Summary of the Invention" section to be included in the specification. Thus, a summary section is not a requirement for an application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Turning to the art rejections, claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Phelan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,745) in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 5,608,850). Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a personal interview on Monday, April 5, 2004 to discuss these rejections.

During the interview, the Examiner agreed to Applicants' proposal to add language to claim 1 to make the claim clearer for examination. The Examiner further indicated that Applicants' proposal of adding a further limitation to claim 1 that includes extending the reference plane through the initial location may make claim 1 allowable subject to additional

searches. Accordingly, Applicants have amended the independent claims, as shown above.

Applicants have also made some other amendments to the claims to attend to minor informalities. In view of these amendments, withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method of moving an object on a drag plane in a virtual three-dimensional (3D) space. The method includes selecting the object at an initial location using a cursor, moving the cursor from the initial location and generating a reference plane extending through the initial location. The method also includes projecting movement of the cursor from the initial location to an interim point on the reference plane and projecting the cursor from the interim point on the reference plane to a final location on the drag plane. The method further includes rendering the object on the drag plane at the final location.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1. In particular, neither Phelan nor Robertson, taken separately or in combination, discloses or suggests generating a reference plane extending through a initial location.

Specifically, Phelan describes a method of "drag and drop" for sheet metal objects that is different from a generic "drag and drop" method used with non-sheet metal objects. The method "drag and drop" described in Phelan includes orientation rules and different sizing rules based on the type of sheet metal object. However, as indicated by the Examiner on page 1 of the Office Action, Phelan does not disclose or suggest generating a reference plane extending through the initial location.

Robertson describes moving objects in a three-dimensional space and viewing these objects from different viewing angles. At best, Robertson describes viewing an object from a different viewpoint (or camera position) which results in a change of position of the object including scale and orientation (see Robertson column 6, lines 15 to 35). The Examiner interpreted the phrase “adjusting the position in the workspace (and also the orientation and size or scale)” to mean generating a new reference plane. Applicants disagree. The aforementioned phrase is included in a sentence that includes the phrase “as successive viewpoints change.” Thus, Robertson is merely move a camera around a three-dimensional scene which would change the size and orientation of objects as perceived by a user viewing the 3D scene. Furthermore, Applicants generate a reference plane without moving a camera (See FIGS 6 and 7 of Applicants' specification)

Moreover, even if Robertson disclosed generating a reference plane, Robertson does not describe generating a reference plane extending through the initial location. Robertson does not describe where his reference plane exists in 3D space and therefore Robertson cannot disclose or suggest generating a reference plane that extends through the initial location.

Accordingly, even if Phelan and Robertson were combined, the resulting hypothetical combination would still fail to disclose or suggest generating a reference plane extending through the initial location. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the art rejection.

Claims 11 and 21 roughly correspond to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 11 and 21 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Applicants submit that all dependent claims now depend on allowable independent claims.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the below address. Applicants' attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown below.

Applicants : John J. [REDACTED], et al.
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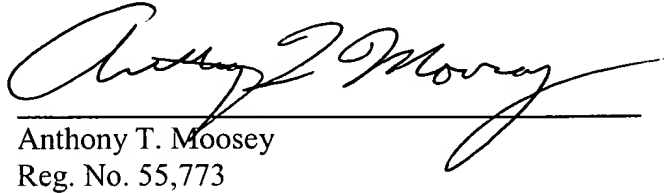
Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-497001
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No fee is believed to be due for this Response; however, if any fees are due, please apply such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket 10559-497001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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